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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

jc986 U.S. PTO  
09/965886  
10/01/01

Dear Sir:

The present application is being filed as a continuation Application, under 35 U.S.C. § 111 (a) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.53, of International Application PCT/DE00/00957, filed March 29, 2000, in accordance with the procedures outlined in Sections 1895 et seq. of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. To facilitate the Examiner's review, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Cover Page of the published International Application and a copy of Applicants' PCT Request.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

[illegible]

<b>TOTAL FEE</b>	<b>\$1118.00</b>
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A check for the statutory filing fee of \$1118.00 is attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from March 31, 1999 based on German Application No.19914820.1. The priority document is enclosed herewith.

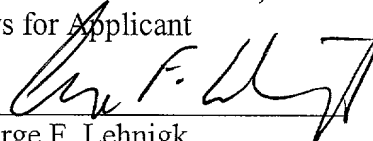


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**Since the anniversary of the priority date fell on a Sunday, the filing of this application on Monday, October 1, 2001, is sufficient to obtain the benefit of priority.**

Respectfully submitted,  
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GFL/plr

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